

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 11 and 12 remain in the application. Claims 8-10 have been cancelled and new claims 13-16 have been added.

First, the specification has been amended to correct various typographical and grammatical errors.

Second, claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson (US 1,927,780). Anderson discloses a bolt retention assembly having a first component (5) having a threaded hole (8) and a counter-bore (7). The bolt includes a head (9), a shank portion (11), and a threaded portion (10) wherein the threaded portion of the bolt is threaded through the threaded hole to retain the bolt to the first component. Anderson further discloses a second component having a second threaded hole (6) to receive the threaded portion of the bolt to connect the first and second components.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to set forth a bolt retention assembly comprising a first component defining a first hole, the first hole having a first threaded bore defining a first bore diameter and a first counter-bore defining a first counter-bore diameter greater than the first bore diameter, the first threaded bore and the first counter-bore defining a first relief therebetween; a second component for mounting to the first component, the second component having a second hole axially aligned with the first hole of the first component, the second hole including a second threaded bore defining a second bore diameter and a second counter-bore defining a second counter-bore diameter greater than the second bore diameter, the second threaded bore and the second counter-bore defining a second relief therebetween; a bolt having a shank portion and a threaded portion extending through the first component, the threaded portion threadingly engageable with the first threaded bore and abutable with the first relief preventing the bolt from being removed from the first hole after the threaded portion is rotatably threaded past the first threaded bore and threadingly engageable with the second bore to

clamp the second component to the first component, the threaded portion having a predetermined length (L2); the first and second counter-bores extend coaxially along a combined length (L3) defined between the first and second relief; and wherein the combined length (L3) of the first and second counter-bores is greater than the length (L2) of the threaded portion of the bolt to prevent simultaneous engagement of the threaded portion with each of the first and second threaded bores.

Anderson clearly does not disclose a second component have a second counter-bore axially aligned with the first counter-bore of the first component. Additionally, Anderson clearly does not disclose first and second counter-bores extending coaxially along a combined length (L3) defined between the first and second relief. Therefore, the invention as set forth in amended claim 1 is clearly distinguished over Anderson and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Second, claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson and further in view of Coleman (US 6,146,111). Coleman discloses mounting of a water pump (20) to an engine block (82) by a plurality of bolts (23). However, Coleman also fails to disclose a second component having a second threaded bore and a second counter-bore. Coleman further does not disclose first and second counter-bores extending coaxially along a combined length (L3) defined between the first and second relief. Therefore, as stated above, the invention as set forth in amended claim 1, from which claims 5-9 depend, is clearly distinguished over Anderson and Coleman and the rejection of claim 5-9 would also be withdrawn.

Finally, claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Coleman and further in view of Koelsch (US 6,109,158). Koelsch discloses a component having a threaded bore (36) with a counter-bore of greater diameter. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to form the second threaded hole of Anderson with a second counter-bore as disclosed in Koelsch in order to facilitate alignment to receive the screw tip.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. As set forth in amended claim 1, the first and second counter-bores extend coaxially along a combined length (L3) defined between the first and

second relief; and wherein the combined length (L3) of the first and second counter-bores is greater than the length (L2) of the threaded portion of the bolt to prevent simultaneous engagement of the threaded portion with each of the first and second threaded bores.

Even with the Examiner's suggested modification of the threaded hole of Anderson with a counter-bore as disclosed in Koelsch, such combination fails to disclose or teach Applicant's invention as claimed wherein the length of the coaxially aligned counter-bores between the first and second components is greater than the length of the threaded portion of the bolt such that the bolt cannot simultaneously thread into each of the threaded bores. This unique arrangement creates a tensile stress in the bolt between the head and the threaded portion and a compressive stress between the first and second component to provide a clamping force therebetween. Modification of Anderson with the counter-bore disclosed in Koelsch falls short of providing this unique arrangement and clamping force between the first and second components. Further, there is absolutely no teaching, suggestion or incentive to modify Anderson in light of Koelsch as is required for such a 103 combination.

Finally, claim 12 has not been rejected or indicated as allowable and therefore remains as originally filed. Applicant has also added new claims 13-16 to further distinguish the invention over the prior art.

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Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in condition for more favorable consideration and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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